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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT

Celeste Miller
(202) 502-8680

INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE SEEKS INPUT FOR POWER MARKETS STUDY

An interagency task force is seeking public comment on questions associated with competition in the wholesale and retail markets for electric energy. The comments are being sought in preparation for a study the group will submit to Congress in August 2006, as required under the recently enacted Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The group of federal government agencies, known as the "Electric Energy Market Competition Task Force," includes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission, and the Department of Agriculture. The task force was established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to prepare the report to Congress.

The task force is asking for responses to questions about wholesale supply and participation, generation ownership, generation adequacy, transmission investment and regulation, and wholesale market transparency and information. Further comment is sought regarding questions on retail choice, retail service providers, demand-side response, and the impacts of changing fuel prices on retail markets. The task force also is encouraging comments regarding any other factors affecting competition in wholesale and retail electric power markets.

The study will analyze critical elements for effective wholesale and retail competition, the status of each element, impediments to realizing each element and suggestions for overcoming impediments.

The members of the task force are: Michael Bardee, Associate General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; J. Bruce McDonald, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Karen Larsen, Office of Assistant Administrator, Electric Programs, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; David Meyer, Deputy Director, Division of Permitting, Siting, and Analysis, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy; and Michael Wroblewski, Assistant General Counsel for Policy Studies, Federal Trade Commission.

Submissions are due on November 18, 2005 and may be filed electronically using the e-Filing link on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's website at www.ferc.gov. The docket number in this proceeding is AD05-17-000.